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RPATZ DOESN'T WANT TO TELL YOU HOW HE IS {page 09}

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- Bobby Valentine admits that Red Sox organization still needs a 'fine-tuning'
- Players, owners try to cover themselves in wake of scathing report {page 21}

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Countdown signs giving riders an ETA

Riders waiting for the Red Line at South Station will no longer feel helpless as they peer into a dark tunnel hoping for a bright light.

That's because the station is now equipped with LED signs that give an estimate of when trains will arrive, so riders can plan their trip accordingly.

"It is a day that our customers have been asking for for a long time," said Transportation Secretary Richard Davey yesterday as the signs were unveiled at South Station. "People will now be able to see how long a train will be before getting to the platform. It is a low-cost way to improve customer experience, and it has been a long time coming."

Davey said that Boston MBTA customers who have visited other cities with similar technologies, like New York City and Washington D.C., have asked, "Why not us?"

"Giving them information about train delays and arrival and departure times is key because that allows them to reduce some of their anxiety while waiting or potentially make a different choice," he said. METRO/MR

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ The sign at South Station

In the news

10

Authorities in Brockton seized a pit bull mother and her nine puppies this week and said yesterday that animal cruelty charges will be filed against the owner. The dogs were taken from a home Sunday after neighbors complained about them yelping in pain, according to the Brockton Enterprise. METRO

Today's local tweet

"As it turns out, @MetroBOS is a great morning read, but a less sufficient umbrella and also causes ppl to stare."

@EDEVITO AFTER YESTERDAY'S MORNING DOWNPOUR

▶ Ettlinger

Ex-teacher pleads guilty to child porn

NEWTON. A former Newton elementary school teacher has pleaded guilty to federal child porn charges.

David Ettlinger, 35, pleaded guilty yesterday to engaging in a child exploitation enterprise, the Globe reported. He faces up to 20 years in jail and will be sentenced later this year for his participation in an international child porn sharing site.

Ettlinger still faces charges in Massachusetts for allegedly abusing three girls. METRO/BOSTON.COM

First West Nile case this year

MASSACHUSETTS. A man who lives "north of Boston" in Middlesex County was diagnosed with West Nile Virus in late July, officials said yesterday, announcing the state's first case of West Nile this year. The state Department of Public Health said the man is in his 60s and remains hospitalized, but is recovering. The West Nile Virus threat has been raised to "moderate" in Arlington, Belmont, Cambridge, Somerville and Watertown. METRO/SHNS

An impromptu picnic to play out under Boston sky

Location for flash feast remains mystery until about an hour before the event Hundreds of diners expected to wear white, enjoy 3-course meal

Boston's most elegant picnic-lovers will have their first ever "Diner en Blanc" tonight in a high class spin on the flash-mob trend.

About an hour before the seemingly impromptu group dinner, 650 ticket-holders will get word on where they will be dining.

Diner en Blanc has grown over the past 24 years from an intimate picnic in Paris to an international tradition in several cities.

The common theme: white, wine, and well-fed palates.

"It is definitely about 'higher and finer' dining. We don't want guests going to Subway and bringing a sandwich to (Diner en Blanc)," said Angela Giovine, one of the Boston-based organizers.

Instead, organizers have encouraged guests to pack at least three courses, and leave the wine at home, since it will be offered at the event.

As for the garb, guests should plan accordingly, because if they don't dress up, they'll be booted out.

"The dress code will be strictly enforced. Elegance comes from order, and elegance is what it is all about," Giovine said.

That means no "wife beaters," regardless of how well it is bleached, and no white denim, even though labor day is still weeks away.

Guests will first convene at 17 meeting points around the city before being led to the secret spot. They will also shlep their own tables and chairs, which means the residents won't be tipped off by organizers setting up ahead of time.

While organizers hope the evening will come together seamlessly, the truth is, the chic picnic is far from spontaneous.

She said organizers had to mask the name of the event while doing the city permitting.

"In the days of Twitter and Facebook, you can't keep anything a secret," Giovine said. "You really can't tell anybody."

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A guest celebrates the 2011 Diner en Blanc in New York City.

By the numbers

15
This summer, more than 15 cities on five continents have added their name to the Dîner en Blanc list. In the U.S., it will be held in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Atlantic City, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and of course, Boston

31K
The launching of the first American Dîner en Blanc in New York City last summer drew over 31,000 people to the waiting list; however, only about 1,100 got in.

650
Only 650 lucky Bostonians are invited to the secret dinner, and about 2,000 hopefuls were on the wait list.

24
The first Paris Diner en Blanc launched 24 years ago, when its founder, François Pasquier, assembled a group of friends. Now, nearly 15,000 Parisians attend the annual event.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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State reverses decision on Uber

State tells GPS-based livery company it can operate Earlier ruling creates comment controversy

After outcries from loyal users and pledges of help from city and state leaders, UberBoston can ride on.

The state Division of Standards reversed its own decision yesterday afternoon after it initially ordered the GPS-based livery service startup to stop operating because its new technology is not regulated.

Using a phone app, travelers can see where the closest Uber luxury car is. After they plug in a destination and pick-up location, they're met by a driver who charges them based on the distance calculated by a GPS system in the car.

Yesterday, the agency said Uber can still operate because national agencies are currently reviewing relevant Taximeter regulations related to GPS fare assessments.

The state Division of Standards issued its initial ruling on Aug. 1 against the San Francisco startup after a hearing on a citation.

"The use of the unapproved GPS system to assess transportation charges must be discontinued until such time as the standards for its use are established," Charles Carroll, the director of standards wrote in the first decision.

Mayor Thomas Menino and Gov. Deval Patrick, who have made innovation growth a priority, came to the aid of Uber once news of the decision spread through the media.

Menino took to Twitter yesterday to thank those who have reached out to his office in support of Uber. He also said city officials will "work together" on a solution.

Patrick's communications director tweeted yesterday that the state is not shutting the company down, but is "working on a swift resolution."

Uber remained defiant after the first ruling and said in a blog post Tuesday that the company was committed to facilitating an improved transportation option and "that will not change."

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ UberBoston team member Matt Marra shows off the app in the back seat of an Uber Cadillac last year.

Familiar territory

It is not the first controversy for Uber, which has services in about a dozen cities including Paris, New York and London.

Uber was issued a similar cease and desist order from San Francisco transportation officials in 2010, according to TechCrunch. The company has also faced criticism from Washington, D.C., officials who said it was operating "illegally."

Sting operation

According to the first ruling, Cambridge officials started by setting up a sting operation targeting Uber.

- A Cambridge's Consumer Division employee requested and was picked up by an Uber car.
- After watching the driver operate the GPS billing system, the city worker had the driver pull over after a short distance where a Cambridge police officer was waiting.
- The driver was issued a citation, which was thrown out with yesterday's new ruling.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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New effort to find missing woman

Quincy woman last seen returning home from shift at Cambridge eatery Billboards being put up a year later

About a year ago, Evelin Valibayova went missing — and authorities believe that whatever happened to her wasn't good.

They believe that she was the victim of foul play inside her North Quincy apartment, and hasn't been seen or heard from since.

Authorities have renewed their efforts to locate Valibayova, who was last seen returning home from her shift at Area Four restaurant in Cambridge on July 17, 2011. She was 23 when she went missing.

New billboards are going up in Greater Boston that seek clues in her disappearance, and authorities this week released images of two men using her CharlieCard at the Ashmont T station after her disappearance. They do not believe the two men are responsible for her being missing, but do believe they know where some of her belongings were dumped.

▶ Valibayova

Authorities said that their investigation led them to believe that her shoulder bag, wallet, cell phone and CharlieCard were dumped in the Dorchester/Mattapan area.

"We have been working with the Quincy Police Department and moving forward with this investigation for a year, and we are now at the point where it is appropriate to make this public appeal," Norfolk County District Attorney Michael Morrissey said in a statement.

Valibayova's LinkedIn profile said she graduated from American University and was a business administration graduate.

Anyone with information can call an anonymous tip line at 617-593-8840.

Tip line

Anyone with information can call an anonymous tip line at 617-593-8840.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Charity. School supplies

▶ Volunteers from Garden Neighborhood Charities, the Salvation Army and the City of Boston filled the backpacks as part of next week's Back-to-School Celebration event.

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

Backpacks readied for school

More than 3,500 backpacks were stuffed with supplies including notebooks, pens, pencils and handwritten notes of encouragement by volunteers at the TD Garden yesterday. Thousands of disadvantaged children in Greater Boston will be the recipients of the backpacks. METRO

City Hall Plaza going green

Boston GreenFest 2012 kicks off tonight at City Hall Plaza with a concert and will launch the fifth annual event into the weekend with events for families and people of all ages.

At GreenFest, you can learn how to make your home energy efficient, find out where to buy fresh and organic produce and explore innovative green technologies.

Featured events include the One Gallon Challenge, which is a race today from Plymouth to City Hall Plaza in cars that can drive more than 100 miles on one gallon of gas.

"Boston GreenFest continues to showcase great ways to greenovate our city and region, with expansive programing, wonderful information and resources, and innovative ways for all of us to live more sustainably," Mayor Thomas Menino said.

GreenFest continues from noon to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

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Naive online daters turn

One day, Sharon's and Catherine's online dates, called "Frank" and "Marc," asked them to finally meet in person, but not before one last favor: going to Argentina to pick up some sensitive documents.

The two women eventually agreed, thinking their dream had finally come true.

However, the documents, hidden in a secret compartment of their luggage, turned out instead to be cocaine.

That's how Sharon Mae Armstrong, 55, former deputy chief executive of the Maori Language Commission from New Zealand, and Catherine Blackhawk, 49, an American nurse, suddenly and unknowingly became the final links in a drug trafficking chain.

Astonished, they ended up behind bars in the same federal prison on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, in April and June 2011, respectively.

Their cases reveal that dating deceits — which rose by 150 percent in 2011 alone, fraud protection agency Iovation reveals — are moving beyond the simple take-the-money-and-run scheme.

Quoted

"Cartels are looking for people who clearly can't focus properly to realize what kind of business they have been thrown into."

PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE ANTI-DRUGS ASSOCIATION

"Cartels are looking for people who clearly can't focus properly to realize what kind of business they have been thrown into," Claudio Izaguirre, president of the Argentine Anti-Drugs Association, told Metro.

"People like Sharon are thrown into the fray with a luggage where the cocaine is easily detectable; she is just a decoy, a scapegoat. The real mules are behind her, managing to get through while the attention falls on her," he added.

In January of this year, a third person fell into the same cyber-trap and got caught at Buenos Aires airport: Paul Howard Frampton, 69, a distinguished professor of physics and astronomy based at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Frampton has said he was lured into meeting a woman he thought he had been chatting with on the Internet, Czech-born lingerie model Denise Milani. He was given luggage to carry by someone claiming to be Milani's intermediary; the case had 2 kilograms of cocaine inside.

Just like Armstrong and

Drug smuggling 2.0

A well-educated Western professional feeling lonely and looking for a mate on a dating website: That's the perfect profile for the next-generation drug mule. Watch out: That seductive, sweet-talking cyber-mate might in fact just turn out to be a cover for a drug cartel in need of smugglers who are beyond suspicion.

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into today's drug mules

THINKSTOCK

▶ If you're looking for love online, be careful of who's out there.

Blackhawk, Frampton was perceived to be vulnerable and financially secure.

Julieta Lacroze, Sharon's lawyer from Buenos Aires-based law firm Estudio Durrieu, believes they are just the tip of an iceberg, but admits it is hard to find exact figures on the dating scam trend.

"It is easy for criminal organizations — they just have to sit down and chat," she said. "Three months of work via the Internet, and that's it. For 5 kilos of cocaine, it's a fairly good deal."

Normally, dating website rip-offs tend to go unreported due to victims feeling embarrassed or humiliated.

The unwitting drug mules detained in Argentina now fight a battle behind bars to raise awareness about their plight.

METRO WORLD NEWS
letters@metro.us

How to dig your own grave

Being a professional cyber-love scammer requires an outrageously creative brain. Investigators believe that the organization that tricked Sharon used her own money to pay for the whole operation: In more than four months of a virtual relationship with "Frank," Sharon agreed to send him $20,000 in different installments via Western Union.

"Every time, he had a different excuse," her lawyer, Lacroze, pointed out.

"Who in Argentina would ever accept to send this much money to a stranger? No one."

Nigerian and Russian criminal organizations are infamous to experts and drug enforcement agencies around the world. Websites like Romancescam.com are dedicated to raising awareness over the issue and help people detect their scammers before it becomes too late.

MWN

Learn by example

Sharon Mae Armstrong: Arrested on April 13, 2011. Faced 16 years in jail but was eventually sentenced to 4 years and 10 months. She is awaiting appeal.

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The bondage scene: More than mommy porn fodder

After the sensational story of a hot-blooded breakup between a young Manhattan sex slave and her high-powered CEO master — coupled with the popularity of "Fifty Shades of Grey" — curiosity is on the upswing about the underground fetish world.

And it's prompting those who live it to speak out.

The city plays host to dozens of sex clubs, public and private, visited by thousands of people looking to quench their sexual desires. Though the mainstream perception of BDSM (bondage, dominance, sadism, masochism) and S&M (sadomasochism) is sexual free-for-all, those who practice it say a relationship formed within these communities is just like any other.

"People fail to realize that BDSM is just a microcosm of the population as a whole," Guy Sanders, spokesperson for The Eulenspiegel Society, a BDSM education and support group, told Metro. "It's kind of like how being gay was years ago. Because people have formulated their own opinions about you and what you are, it's not prudent to allow your sexual history to come out."

And many more Americans have engaged in some type of BDSM sex play than one may realize: According to the 1993 Janus Report on Sexual Behavior, 14 percent of men and 11 percent of women in the U.S. have experienced a sadomasochist sexual encounter.

But don't expect those involved in such relationships to be very forthcoming about it. The stigma that surrounds alternative sexuality makes many of those who practice it keep it under wraps.

"One in three people who are kinky are persecuted. That could be losing a job or losing child custody to having troubles with your family," Susan Wright from the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom said.

New York's fetish sex scene is very much alive and well.

And she applauds books like the "Fifty Shades" for making bondage sex more accepted — or at least, easier to experiment.

"[Fifty Shades] has been wonderful publicity for the BDSM community," Wright said. "I'm hoping ... that it will become tolerated, that people have kinky elements to their sexual relationships."

BDSM and S&M relationships can be monogamous or polyamorous, meaning couples either swing together or both partners share other lovers. And insiders said plenty of solid relationships and marriages exist among community members.

"It's not all whips and chains and sleeping around," Sanders said, "There is a love and commitment in these relationships."

CASSANDRA GARRISON
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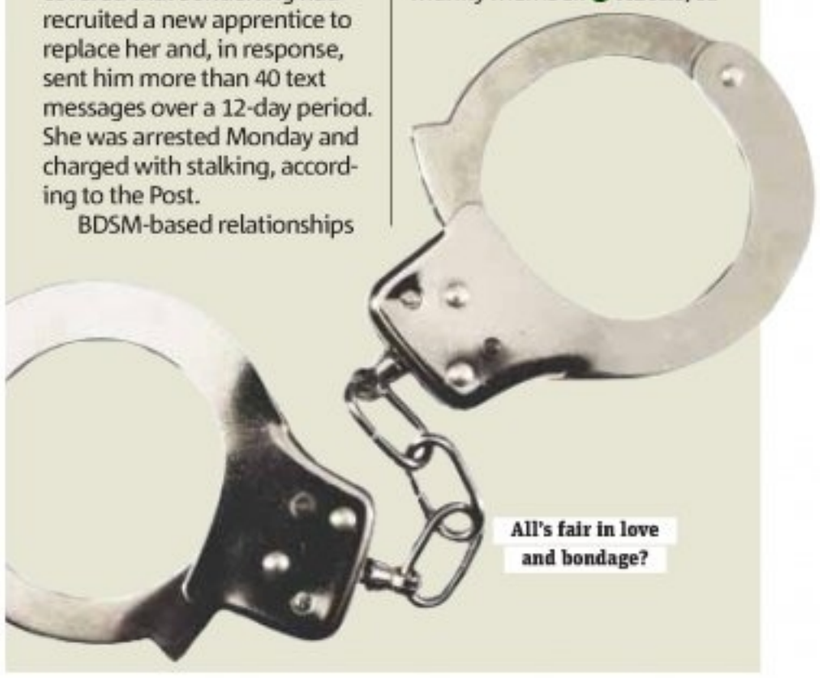
Bondage breakup in the spotlight

In a real-life "Fifty Shades of Grey" scenario, Frankie Santiago, 27, submitted to daily whippings from her 53-year-old lover, Edward Sonderling.

That is, until Santiago discovered that Sonderling had recruited a new apprentice to replace her and, in response, sent him more than 40 text messages over a 12-day period. She was arrested Monday and charged with stalking, according to the Post.

BDSM-based relationships are not immune to jealousy or messy breakups, but bondage community members say they hope the media attention to this case will combat stigma.

"I don't see any difference between the vanilla community and this community in terms of what people are looking for, or in terms of whether or not you're stable," said Mazie, a Staten Island-based fetish community member. METRO/CG



All's fair in love and bondage?

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— JOANNE GRACE, paralegal; BU certificate awarded 2010

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Pattinson dodging breakup questions

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ This is just the way we like our Pattinson: pouty and bed-headed.

With his latest film, "Cosmopolis," set to hit theaters Friday, **Robert Pattinson** — who has never been one to talk about his personal life — has been at the mercy of the media. He eased into things Monday with "The Daily Show," where **Jon Stewart** playfully offered him a pint of breakup Ben & Jerry's before obediently asking him about the film that no one cared about.

But "Good Morning America" host **George Stephanopoulos** wasn't about to let dignity get in his way yesterday morning. After Pattinson didn't voluntarily offer any details about how he's coping after the **Kristen Stewart** cheating scandal, Stephanopoulos pressed, "What do you want your fans to know about what's going on in your personal life?" Pattinson finally offered some insight: "I'd like my fans to know that Cinnamon Toast Crunch is just 130 calories."

We're pretty sure this is as close as we're ever going to get to eating breakfast with Robert Pattinson. And we'll take it — even if he does pour a skimpy little bowl of Cinnamon Toast Crunch.

Aniston's rocking a major rock

Jennifer Aniston has been hiding her engagement ring, but that won't stop us from talking about it. According to Life & Style, fiance **Justin Theroux** is significantly poorer this week.

"It's a huge emerald-cut diamond," a "friend" of the couple tells the magazine of the 8-carat rock. "It's a rectangle with tapered diamond baguettes on the sides."

We already feel creepy talking about this, so sure, let's go for broke: **Angelina Jolie** is wearing a similarly cut engagement ring from Aniston's ex, **Brad Pitt**.

God save the trashy cousin

Kate Middleton's cousin, **Katrina Darling**, graces the cover of September's Playboy. While the burlesque dancer — who was paid a six-figure sum for the eight-page pictorial — doesn't have the face of Kate or the rear view of **Pippa**, she is willing to lay naked on a sheepskin rug and say things like this: "Burlesque is a platform for me to explore these kinds of things. The more into it the audience is, the more into it I am."

▶ Katrina Darling's curtsey requires a little cropping.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@ActuallyNPH (Neil Patrick Harris)
Bret Easton Ellis thinks gay actors can't play straight roles. Totally unrelated, I thought Christian Bale was amazing in "Welsh Psycho."

@taylorswift13
Went to get coffee today-opened my change purse. Sea shells fell out. Barista goes "Sorry, we only take cash or credit." So there's that.

@SteveMartinToGo
There must be a joke in my tweet SOMEWHERE.

@Joan_Rivers
Jennifer Aniston is a lot like those shoppers lined up at 4am on Black Friday. She can't wait to race down the aisle.

Talking points

This makes you feel gross, right?

Nearly 20 years later, **Jean-Claude Van Damme** confirms that yes, he did in fact cheat on his then-wife, Darcy LaPier, with singer **Kylie Minogue** while filming "Street Fighter." according to the Guardian.

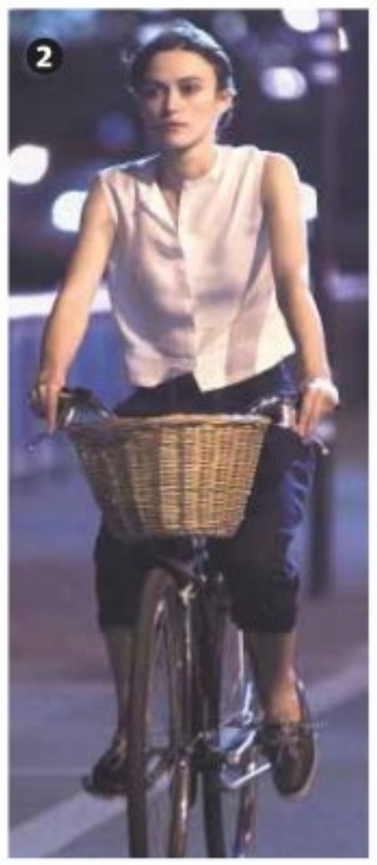
"Yes, yes, yes. It happened," Van Damme tells the newspaper. "It would be abnormal not to have had an affair, she's so beautiful and she was there in front of me every day with a beautiful smile, simpatico, so charming." As for a more detailed recollection? "You should ask her," he says. "She'll have a better memory. I'm 51 years old. Do you know how much I was punched in the face on 'The Expendables'?"

Rashida Jones apologizes to John Travolta

Rashida Jones has taken to Twitter to apologize for remarks she made about **John Travolta** in an interview. While talking to Spinningplatters.com, Jones suggested that the time is right for a big movie star to come out of the closet as gay. "A movie star. Like John Travolta? Come out," she said.

▶ Jones

"Come on. How many masseurs have to come forward? Let's do this." Travolta has been plagued of late by a flurry of lawsuits from male spa and hotel workers claiming inappropriate sexual behavior on the part of the star. "Made a thoughtless comment about John Travolta," Jones tweeted this week, rethinking her comments. "I sincerely apologize. Nobody's personal life is my business."



Celebrities want to ride their bicycles

1. A very eco-conscious **Will Arnett** pedaled home some groceries in Manhattan earlier this summer.

2. Keira Knightley was spotted cruising around New York last week while filming "Can A Song Save Your Life?"

3. In June, **Madonna** was all business on her bike in Florence.

4. Hilary Duff has a special basket so she can cruise around L.A. with her Yorkie.

5. Adrien Brody knocked out some shopping in SoHo over the spring.

6. Bike enthusiast **David Byrne** of The Talking Heads has been pedaling around Manhattan since the early '80s; he wrote a book about his experiences, "Bicycle Diaries," in 2009.

1: ALO CEBALLOS/FILMMAGIC
2: ABY BAKER/GETTY IMAGES
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myentertainment

10 REASONS TO KICK IT AT THE MOVIES

Must-see

1 'The Expendables 2' Although no longer the director, Sylvester Stallone once again leads an ensemble cast of some of the biggest action stars from the past three decades (Jason Statham, Bruce Willis, Jean-Claude Van Damme, to name a few) in this testosterone-fueled romp about a group of world-class mercenaries. Chuck Norris and Arnold Schwarzenegger (reprising the role he took during his "Governator" days) also make appearances.

MARY CYBULSKI

▶ Jean-Claude Van Damme joins the all-action cast of "The Expendables 2."

2 'ParaNorman' In the tradition of quirky, supernatural children's films comes "ParaNorman," a stop-motion flick about Norman, a boy who can speak to ghosts and is tasked with saving his town from an uprising of the dead. Chris Butler, who also served in the art departments of "Corpse Bride" and "Coraline," directs the movie.

3 'Sparkle' This film stars Whitney Houston — in her last performance on the big screen before her death — as the overbearing Emma, a single mother raising Sparkle (Jordin Sparks) and two other daughters who dream of stardom as a singing trio. But Emma's own previous fame as a singer and the three sisters' growing popularity threaten to tear the family apart.

4 'The Bourne Legacy' The "Bourne" franchise gets yet another installment, this one starring budding action star Jeremy Renner as the new protagonist, deadly government operative Aaron Cross.

5 'The Campaign' Incumbent North Carolina Congressman Cam Brady (Will Ferrell) receives a challenge from corporate puppet Marty Huggins (Zach Galifianakis) for re-election.

6 'Hope Springs' This dramedy stars Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones as empty-nesters struggling to find intimacy in their marriage.

7 'Total Recall' Colin Farrell stars as lowly factory worker Douglas Quaid, who uses Rekall in order to escape his mundane life. However, the procedure malfunctions and Quaid questions what is real and what is illusion in this sci-fi thriller.

8 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days' In the third movie based on Jeff Kinney's wildly popular books of the same name, Zachary Gordon reprises his role as Greg Heffley.

9 'The Watch' A group of bored, suburban dads band together to form a neighborhood watch group. But then an alien invasion forces them to go from protecting the neighborhood to protecting the world.

10 'Step Up Revolution' The next installment in the "Step Up" series places Emily — the daughter of a wealthy businessman — in the heart of Miami, where she falls in love with a fellow dancer.

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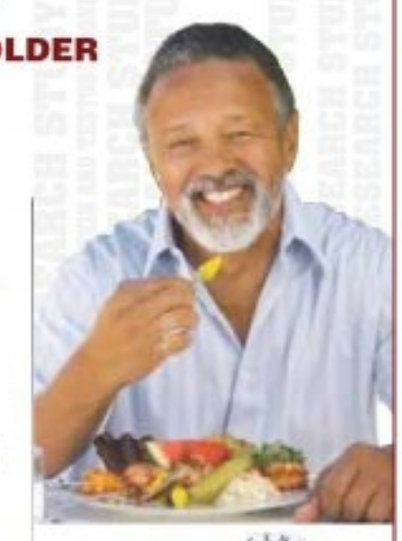

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Streep and Jones, on jumping bones

The stars of 'Hope Springs' talk about how they were able to make shooting sex scenes not quite so awkward

BARRY WETCHER

Streep and Jones get into a little heavy petting in "Hope Springs" — but as they insist, it's all acting!

Having shed the costumes from their new romantic dramedy, "Hope Springs," Meryl Streep and Tommy Lee Jones still look every bit the part of married couple enjoying their retirement years. They sit together in a room of the Ritz-Carlton and you just expect Jones to casually wrap his arm around Streep's shoulder at any moment — but these two Academy Award winners are the consummate professionals.

Since they play a couple struggling to regain the intimacy they lost in their parenting years, Streep and Jones handle their love scenes — and the questions about them — with aplomb.

"To make an analogy, think of a fight scene or anything dangerous — you're interested in the illusion of danger, you sure have no interest in the real thing," says Jones in his famously blunt Texan twang. "It's the same thing with sex scenes. You're interested in the illusion of passion, or the illusion of disappointment, the illusion of longing. The real things have no place; you shouldn't bring them to the workplace."

Streep agrees, adding that the scenes in which their characters are in session with a marriage counselor (Steve Carrell) proved to be more challenging than intimate scenes — even one furtive moment in a movie theater.

"The setup in the movie theater is essentially comic, heartbreaking, real," she says. "But it wasn't as hard as breaking the cement of your emotional resistance to admitting loneliness or having something really pierce you that your husband says about you."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Ever the professional

Director David Frankel — who also helmed Streep's blockbuster film "The Devil Wears Prada" — offered a colorful anecdote about that soon-to-be-infamous movie theater scene.

"We didn't catch it on film, but my favorite moment was Meryl after six or seven takes in the movie theater going, 'Uh, can I please get some knee pads?'" he explains. "That was hours into it. She was so committed that she was going to go method."

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Hope for the dumped

Did your last date end in radio silence — or some lame excuse you didn't believe? Here's a solution

What went wrong

Top reasons for dumping:

1. "Not ready for a relationship"
2. "Lack of punctuality"
3. "You're married"/ "Bad hygiene" (tied)

Top methods for dumping:

1. "No phone call"
2. "Didn't return my call"
3. "Text message/e-mail breakup"

— Data was collected from 500 anonymous, random users on Wotwentwrong.com

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Despite the long list of ways a person can be dumped, it's often the case that no actual breakup happens at all. Ending a relationship with unreturned phone calls or unanswered texts is sadly the norm.

Audrey Melnik, CEO of Wotwentwrong.com, had enough of that. Fed up with the anguish she and her friends experienced when they were kicked to the curb with no explanation, she was determined to find a productive and socially acceptable method of getting feedback from those who had ended things. The result is a website that helps the dumped compose what Melnik describes as a "nonchalant, not clingy" e-mail that politely asks the one who did the dumping for full disclosure.

▶ Melnik

"The tone that I wanted to set pretty much throughout all of it is: 'I'm not trying to get back together with you; I just want to know so I can not make that mistake in the future and improve the next time,'" Melnik explains.

Users can select from a number of tones — from flippant to flattering, philosophical to sincere — from which to compose their e-mail to the ex-mate from whom they're seeking an answer. The site provides text like, "Going out with you was fun for me, and I believed for a while that it was also fun for you. Since I haven't heard from you for a while, I'm assuming things have changed. It would really be great if you could give me some feedback on what went wrong."

Customize the message however you see fit, and it gets sent off to the object of your unrequited affection. Melnick so far has been pleased with the results. Not only has the site helped many daters learn more about their own annoying habits, but anonymously aggregated user information provides fascinating statistics that will help anyone learn more about modern dating behavior (see sidebar).

"One of the key things that we're discovering is that there are two different facets: Either there are certain things that you can learn that you are doing that you can change, or there are certain things about you or your lifestyle that aren't things you can change, so it just means you should stop worrying about it," Melnick says. "Sometimes it's just about finding out that it's not about you, and that can make you feel better."

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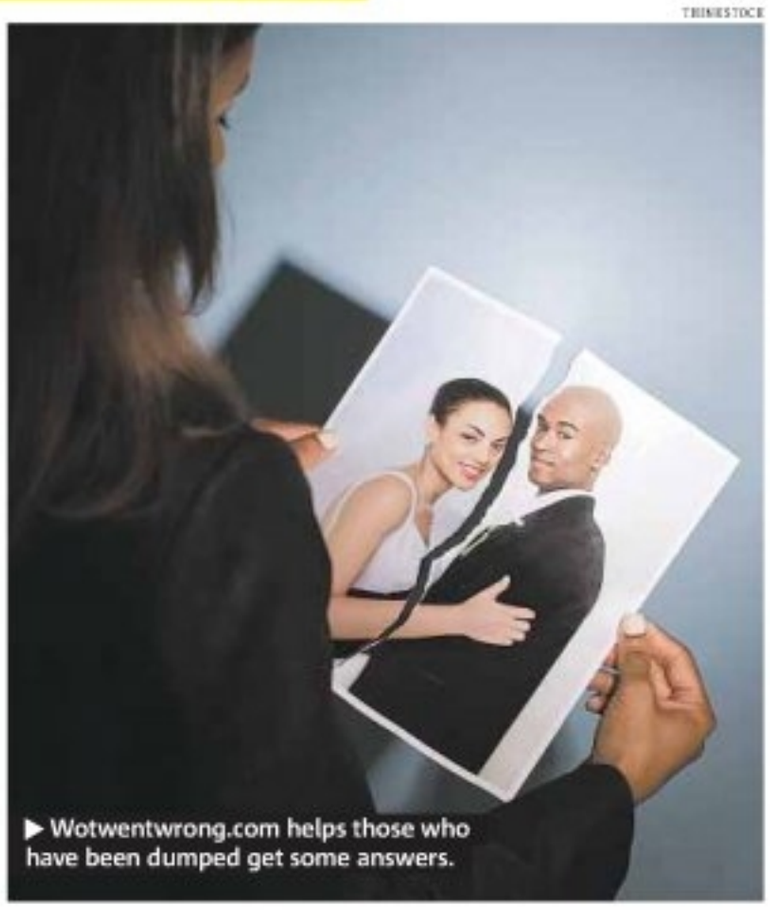
▶ Wotwentwrong.com helps those who have been dumped get some answers.

Reader love notes

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message. Please keep it to about 140 characters. We'll print it in next week's dating section for free!

▶ *Lil Fuzzy, I love you with my whole heart, mind & soul. May 5, 2010!!! Luv, your lil Munchkin.*

▶ *I love you Jillena. You're the best thing to ever happen to me. — Kid eddie furr*

▶ *Babe, It's been over a decade and our love still feels new. You are this girl's best friend and the best father to our little munchkin. Here's to the next 4 decades. Luv u. — NewMom*

▶ *Babe, you make each new day an adventure. How did I ever reach things on the top shelf without you?! I love you more than anything. <3 your little tomato.*

▶ *Dear thunderlips, I'll never understand and know what exactly made me fall for you, but taking that chance was one of my greatest decisions.*

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There's a full moon on the right

RE: "NO WAKE-UP ALARM NEEDED, THANKS" (METRO, AUG. 15) Mr. Tordoff shows why the left wing does have contempt for people who misconstrue them as "lunatics" with "delusional worldviews" by espousing the right-wing mantra of blowharding with rhetorical right hooks while offering no solutions, a la Fox News and the GOP, respectively. Leftists listen to our economists (stimulus spend), our best scientific minds (climate change) and our religious leaders (take care of the less fortunate). What is lunacy is governing by recklessly and viciously feeding on racism induced by hyperbole, such as "the illegals are taking our jobs." The new, extreme right-wing ideology is like a pathogenic virus, killing its host from the inside out — just not fast enough.
COREY SAGENICH, VIA E-MAIL

Taking shelter from the (tax) storm

RE: "AMERICANS NEED TO JUMP OFF THE WAGON" (METRO, AUG. 15) Mr. Mclaughlan clearly has it all wrong. Obama is not a socialist; he is a corporate lackey, just like the Republicans are. The top 1 percent have $32 trillion in off-shore accounts so as to evade taxation, yet they are paying the lowest taxes ever. The banks and motor car companies got bailed out, to the tune of $13 trillion, using taxpayers' money (that is socialist and that is definitely riding the handouts bandwagon). Republicans claim to be champions of free markets and capitalism, yet they won't let the banks and the rich hedge-funders fail, while small business owners are left to their own devices. That's corporate socialism.
GARY LYON, VIA E-MAIL

Rich, richer and Sir Richard Branson

I am quite looking forward to Sir Richard Branson's upcoming edition of Metro. It will be a welcome change to hear from a real success story, versus a fake one like a certain GOP candidate.
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

Never let the facts get in the way ...

Guess all the Fox News viewers missed the two studies done last spring that showed that people who watched Fox News were the most misinformed on basic facts of all the study participants. Here are some facts for you: Greece can't control its currency, but the U.S. can, and tax cheating by the rich in Greece has been rampant for decades. Also, we can add the oil industry to the list of those that don't pull their weight and cut off their subsidies.
KATHY KOURIAN, VIA E-MAIL

The sick man of Europe — and US

RE: "OBAMA'S CAP HAS GOT MORE FEATHERS" (METRO, AUG. 15) Mr. Dourdis assigns praise to Mr. Obama for "creating" jobs. Get the facts right, please. The "jobs" created are based on the changing unemployment numbers, which may be lower when people do not get free checks and therefore are not being counted as part of those looking for work. The jobs he has created are in big government. Socialism is failing in Europe, so why bring it here?
JOHN MIELACH, VIA E-MAIL

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Horoscope

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** The only way you are going to be able to advance your self-interest is to be bold when fate requires it. Have faith in yourself and your abilities to get things done.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** You have a lot of extra pluses going for you, some you might not even be aware of. However, everything will be there for you the moment you need it.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Agreements you make involving friends will benefit both you and your pals. If you negotiate with an eye on everyone's profit, things will work out exceptionally well.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** You're likely to get a marvelous opportunity to strengthen your position in a critical area that has a big influence on your work or career. Don't let it escape you.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** By merely doing what you do best, which is getting along well with people from all walks of life, your probabilities for success are considerably enhanced.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Keep a weather eye peeled on a new development that has possibilities of providing you with a second source of income. It might be revealed to you quite soon.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Your skills as a salesperson or promoter can be considerably enhanced through some type of verbal or written communication. Let your thoughts be known.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Don't be dismayed if you get off to a slower start than you had anticipated. The closer you get to the finish line, the stronger you'll become.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It behooves you to keep all of your lines of communication open, because there's a good chance you will be hearing from someone who has the good news that you've been waiting for.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't get upset if you are subjected to a change that is instigated by an outside force. What occurs is apt to end up being very favorable for you.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Do not waste your time on insignificant matters. You're likely to be far more fortunate with issues, projects or endeavors that are substantial and meaningful.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You're likely to be far luckier in your commercial and financial dealings than you would be with projects or endeavors that are less monetary in nature. Capitalize while you can.
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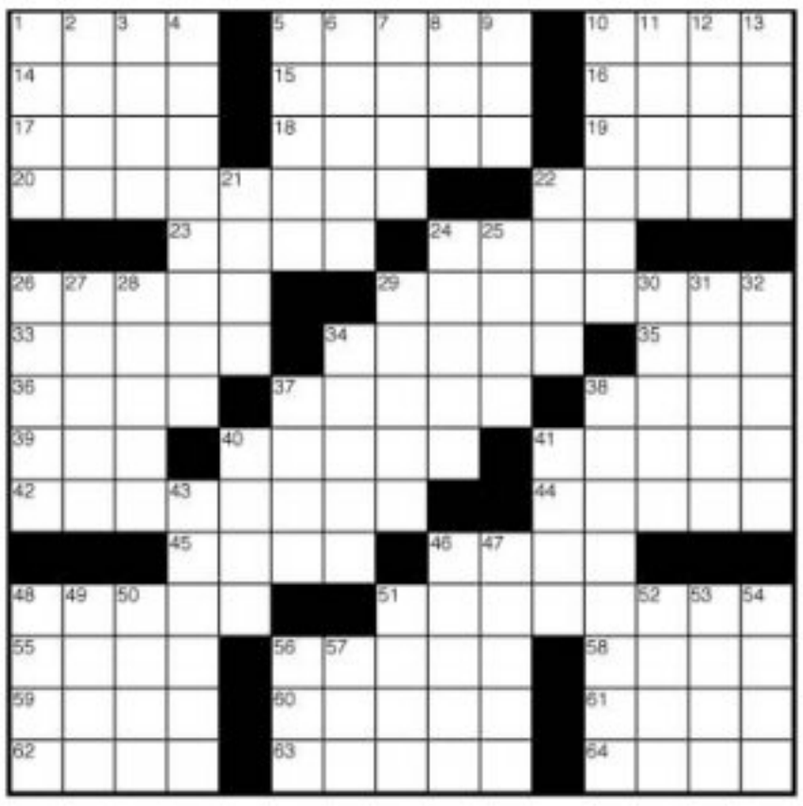

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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3			9	2				
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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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LUKE O'NEIL

TWITTER: @LUKEONEIL47

Timing is everything when it comes to enjoying a bar, for both good and bad. For example, you might choose an ideal, dry summer evening with a breeze coming off the water to sit at the cozy and cute Alley Bar at Rowes Wharf (not to be confused with the gay dive bar of the same name). But then again, it might also be out of key ingredients in its two signature cocktails, in this case cranberry shrub and muddled cilantro. The fact that it even has either in its repertoire is an encouraging sign, however, because this bar, literally in an alley adjacent to the Boston Harbor Hotel at Rowes Wharf, could very easily have been a touristy joke. It's mostly not.

Nestled amidst the high-rises, and bordered on one end by the waterfront area, the space erects a sort of urban oasis. Burning torch lamps, a super-chill bro playing super-chill acoustic covers — "That was the Beatles," he informed us after finishing "Hey Jude" — and the sea air all lend an overall island-resort feel. On the downside, it also takes on something of a touristy aesthetic, and a pricey one at that, from its affiliation with the high-end hotel; some of the cocktails are on the wrong side of $13.

The resort aura carries over to the cocktail menu, featuring plenty of rums and tequilas, tiki-style syrups and fruits. Cocktails are pleasingly made with orgeat, falernum, Cherry Heering and a variety of interesting concoctions like serrano chili and mint syrup; again, not expected and definitely not necessary — but welcome all the same.

This is the type of bar you would take for granted if you were staying in a hotel in another city, thinking of it simply as the hotel bar that's always existed and always will. It's different for locals, though, and it would be easy to feel like you were on vacation yourself if you go — at least over the course of a few drinks. Not that you have to rush over there, but if you're passing through it's not a bad little getaway.

▶ Alley Bar at Rowes Wharf at the Boston Harbor Hotel (70 Rowes Wharf, Boston, 617-748-1857, www.bhh.com) is cozy and cute.

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO

Don't fear the Alley Ghost

Worth trying is the Alley Ghost, made with Bacardi 8, limoncello, vanilla syrup, Coco Lopez and grapefruit juice. It's nicely tart and creamy from the coconut. But the presentation, in a standard tumbler without crushed ice or a garnish, detracted from its potential. The Chills was enjoyable as well, if not mind-blowing, made with vodka, Solerno blood orange liqueur, muddled cucumber, lime, soda and Angostura bitters. It helped take the garlicky edge off the hummus.

Stir it up

Cocktail of the week: The Colada Island

Can't make it to a tropical coast this weekend? Shake up an umbrella-worthy cocktail like one of these.

What's in it:
1.5 oz. Svedka Colada flavored vodka
2 oz. pineapple juice
0.5 oz. mango juice
0.5 oz. Midori
0.25 oz. lime juice

How to make it:
Combine ingredients in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake, strain into a martini glass and garnish with a pineapple wedge.

▶ Hit the pool at BOKX — and then hit the bar!

HOTEL INDIGO

Bars with benefits

BOKX Pool

BOKX's bar-side pool might be how Michael Phelps imagines his future swim routine: take a dip, sip a summer cooler like BOKX's frozen mojito and, later, while away the evening by the fire pits. Chow delicious pistachio-crusted salmon with sweet melon puree and pea greens, and creme brulee with a compote of big, juicy blueberries. Located inside Hotel Indigo (399 Grove St., Newton, Mass.), the pool has comfy chaises longues (yes, that's the proper spelling, as this is not a lounge-like atmosphere!) and cabanas. Weather permitting, the pool is open daily until 8 p.m.

Area Four

The "Country Club" at Area Four (500 Technology Square, Cambridge) offers laid-back, sporty fun on the Tech Square common adjacent to the patio. There's Frisbee and lawn darts, or go Italiano with a round of Bocce; just ask the hostess for the hardware. Apart from A4's beyond-popular pizzas, fuel up on garlic knots supreme — gooey, marinara- and mozzarella-soaked garlic bread — or a seasonal mustard-crusted bluefish with summer squash salad. Cool down with the sophisticated, Italian-influenced Donkey Show (tequila, grapefruit and Campari), obviously named for its kick!

Liberty Hotel

After a weekend of nail-chipping bar sports, repair at the Manicure Mondays at Liberty Hotel (215 Charles St., Boston). From 5:30 to 7 p.m., it hosts the mini-manicure event in the courtyard. Every Monday throughout August, MiniLuxe staffers utilize bespoke polish (without formaldehyde, toluene, DBP and synthetic camphor) and paraben- and sulfate-free LemonAide cream and scrub. Post-polish, relax with live light music and the Liberty's low-cal Refresh watermelon martini. Nibble, say, some burrata with baby beets, but wait until those nails are dry, huh? LINDA LABAN

hot tickets

Songza playlist

Dark solitude

Late-night public transit has a way of setting the perfect

stage for dark, entrancing music with salacious undertones and plenty of bass. Transcend the cacophony with the playlist at **www.songza.com/listen/night-bus-DevinWoolf**. It's nearly four hours of ambient tunes that conjure up images of neon lights reflecting in puddles. Artists range from Robin Gibb to M83 to The Glove, which was a side project of Robert Smith of The Cure, pictured.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company offers thousands of expertly curated playlists for free on the Web, iPhone and iPad.

... and all that Jasssz

You may recognize Jaimoe as a founding member of the Allman Brothers Band. And you may also recognize one of the songs on "Renaissance Man," the new album from Jaimoe's Jasssz Band, as a classic Allmans song. But the odd thing is, since they have always been a two-drummer band, Jaimoe never actually plays on "Melissa."

"I just thought it never made sense to have two drummers playing on that song," he says. "It's a nice, soft song."

But when Jasssz Band guitarist Junior Mack brought up the idea, Jaimoe was on board.

"Junior's been doing this song in his repertoire ever since the song came out," says Jaimoe. "He said, 'I do "Melissa," but I do it in a bossa nova,' and I said, 'Hey man, let's play it.' And we did and it sounded pretty cool."

PAT HEALY
pat.healy@metro.us

▶ Jaimoe's Jasssz Band play the Salem Jazz and Soul Festival (167 Fort Ave., Salem) on Saturday. For more info visit www.salemjazzsoul.org.

Quoted

"I just thought it never made sense to have two drummers play on that song."

JAIMOE, ABOUT THE ALLMAN BROTHER'S "MELISSA"

A look at the book

Though Jaimoe was not a part of "Melissa," he says he's been a part of so much musical history that he needs to put out a book: "I see something online, and somebody will be talking about something that just isn't true, so I see it and I say, 'Nah, I'm not gonna mess with it,'" he says. "But some of it, I just can't take it, so I sit down and write, 'Actually, what really happened ... ' and it ends up leading into something else that was going on and instead of a sentence it ends up being something like five or six paragraphs."

Ain't wastin' time no more

Jaimoe has anecdotes about being fired by soul legend Joe Tex on three separate occasions and bandleader Donald "Cadillac" Henry hiring him to replace Otis Redding's in-the-pocket drummer Elbert "Woody" Woodson.

"About two hours after I got there, there's a knock on the door," Jaimoe recalls, with a slight laugh, "and Cadillac opened the door and it was Woody, and Cadillac said, 'Hey man, come on in. Meet Otis' new drummer.' Woody almost peed on his self. 'New drummer? Ain't nobody told me about that!' And Cadillac said, 'Well, man, you gave Otis your notice so he told me to find him a drummer.'"

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▶ Alanis Morissette
Guardian Angel Tour 2012
Oct. 17
House of Blues

▶ The Weeknd
Oct. 22
House of Blues

▶ Miike Snow
Oct. 22
The Orpheum

▶ STS9
(Sound Tribe Sector 9)
Nov. 1
House of Blues

▶ Ben Gibbard
with Advance Base
Nov. 4
Somerville Theatre

Re-engaging with Killswitch

If you go

Trespass America Festival with Killswitch Engage
Friday, 4 p.m.
House of Blues Boston
15 Lansdowne St.
$38-$52, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

KILLIAN YOUNG
letters@metro.us

After a decade away, Jesse Leach is once again at the head of one of the biggest metalcore bands to come out of Mass. Vocalist on honoring his replacement's legacy

Jesse Leach's voice sounds profoundly calm. It's hard to imagine that Leach, the lead vocalist for metalcore heavyweight Killswitch Engage, is only hours away from unleashing his guttural vocals to the tune of thousands of screaming headbangers in Pittsburgh.

"That is my therapy session," Leach says of performing live. "That's my way of releasing the demons."

For Leach, the original vocalist for Killswitch Engage, the path has not been without its trials. In 2002, he left the band, following the release of "Alive or Just Breathing," the album that put Killswitch Engage on the map.

"I was dealing with depression, just being newly married in my life and not knowing how to handle myself on the road," Leach admits. "I had to get away. I had to find myself."

Howard Jones, the vocalist who replaced Leach, officially split from the band in January, citing his struggles with both Type 2 diabetes and maintaining the passion for music.

Leach auditioned to become the new (old) vocalist.

"How soon did I find the chemistry?" Leach asks himself. "The moment that I grabbed the microphone to sing a song, we felt it immediately … that first tryout."

In February, Killswitch Engage announced on Facebook that Leach would return.

Although he has been involved in other musical projects since 2002, the time away from Killswitch relieved Leach of the pressures of fame and allowed him to mature. He cites strained vocal chords as part of his downward spiral. Now he proudly refers to his voice as his "instrument" and says because of his care, he has been able to sing through sickness twice on this most recent tour.

"I'm not second-guessing myself anymore," Leach says. "And part of that is just being humble and realizing that there's always something to learn, whether it's in life or as a vocalist."

With a laissez-faire, Zen-like outlook, Leach asserts that everything that happened was for a reason. He attributes this view to the hard-core scene, his parents and his spirituality.

"The motto from Bad Brains, 'PMA' — the positive mental attitude — is something I strive to live by," Leach says.

Back on the East Coast

Originally formed in Westfield, Mass., Killswitch returns to the Hub with the Trespass America Festival, marking his second time in the band's home state since he came back as Killswitch Engage's lead singer.

"They definitely tend to get more rowdy, in the Northeast especially," Leach says.

What's it like to see fans sing along to the songs?

"To make that connection and hopefully bring some happiness to people, bring some positivity, some hope, some upliftment — to me, what music is all about is being able to channel that energy that you're feeling."

STEVE THORNE/REDFERNS

▶ Leach and guitarist Adam Dutkiewicz are rocking side by side again.

Keeping up with the Jones

Since rejoining Killswitch Engage, Leach has sung for the band's homecoming in Massachusetts and has played shows from France to Austria to Canada, all while acclimating to Jones-era lyrical and vocal content.

"I really try to not pay attention to the hype, the media, the naysayers, all those things," Leach says. "I'm trying to focus primarily on how we're feeling as a band, and how the stuff is feeling live, and it's been incredible."

With the Trespass America Festival winding down, Leach says he's looking forward to returning to the studio with the band. But he says he's not competing with Jones' style; for the new album, "There's no real aim for it to sound a certain way."

Instead, Leach says the biggest trial Killswitch Engage will face is the unstable state of the music industry.

"I know it's going to be a challenge, because I really want to make this record count," he says. "Lyrically, sonically, I want it to be important."

Also onstage

Mercury Orchestra performs Ravel

Saturday, 8 p.m.
Sanders Theatre
45 Quincy St., Cambridge
$15-$25, 617-496-2222
www.mercuryorchestra.org

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the debut of French composer Maurice Ravel's ballet "Daphnis et Chloe," the Mercury Orchestra, conducted by Channing Yu, will perform the work in full, rounding out the night with another Ravel work, "Le tombeau de Couperin." Classical enthusiasts generally consider "Daphnis" to be Ravel's masterpiece, the popularity of his "Bolero" notwithstanding.

Nu Sensae

Sunday, 8 p.m.
Midway Cafe
3496 Washington St., Jamaica Plain
$5, 21+, 617-524-9038
www.midwaycafe.com

This Vancouver punk duo dispenses with the guitar altogether, reducing it to just bass and drums — but unlike other such bands, they don't enhance the bass with umpteen pedals to make up for it. Instead, their female singer's pealing voice more than fills the void — hearing her scream actually hurts *our* throats. It just doesn't get rawer than this, folks.

▶ Nu Sensae hit the Midway this weekend.

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listings

The rundown

THEATER

'Zombie Double Feature'
Through Aug. 25
Boston Playwrights' Theatre
949 Comm. Ave., Boston
$20, 866-811-4111
www.newexhibitionroom.org
Witness two original zombie plays: "Midnight at the Last Night Cabaret" and "Terror at BPT." Why two? Because there's never just one zombie. In a meta move that would surely go over most zombies' heads, the interconnected plays take place at the Boston Playwrights' Theatre itself — the first at the outset of a Bostonian zombie infestation, the second several months later.

MUSIC

Sandra Wong and Ross Martin
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
Loring-Greenough House
12 South St., Jamaica Plain
$10-$15, 413-658-4585
www.sites.google.com/site/notlobmusic/
Sandra Wong specializes in an unusual instrument: the Swedish nyckelharpa, a kind of fiddle with a keyboard to press down the strings. Backed by guitarist Ross Martin, she'll perform unique, adventurous arrangements on both the nyckelharpa and the traditional fiddle in a variety of idioms — including classical, Western, bluegrass, jazz, Scandinavian, Middle Eastern and Americana — for this intimate concert.

MOVIES

'The Wild Bunch'
Monday, 7 p.m.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline
$9, 617-734-2500
www.coolidge.org
Sam Peckinpah's goal in making this exceptionally violent 1969 Western — presented here in an even bloodier, unrated director's cut version — was first to appeal to the audience's all-American love of violence, then to push the envelope to the point that almost everyone would be sickened. Then they'd be free to make the inevitable connection to the stuff on the nightly news.

COMEDY

Jim Breuer
Friday, 7:30 p.m.
The Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$22-$32, 800-745-3000
www.thewilburtheatre.com
This '90s "Saturday Night Live" alum is a master of obnoxious, demented caricatures — which, ironically, can turn people off. Of course Goat Boy was stupid and annoying — wasn't that the joke? In his last special, he turned his prodigious talent for impersonation on other comedians. His Tracy Morgan is particularly dead-on — it's almost as good as Tracy Morgan's. Almost!

▶ Deb Putnam's oil-on-canvas painting, "The Elephant in the Room," is on display as part of the 02127/02210 exhibit.

Art

02127/02210

Through Aug. 31
Spoke Gallery, Medicine Wheel Productions
110 K St., second floor, South Boston, free, 617-268-6700
www.mwponline.org
The focus of this exhibition is not thematic but geographic — each of its 12 artists lives in one of the two titular zip codes of south Boston, and many are highly active participants in its vibrant artistic community, running galleries, serving in neighborhood arts associations, organizing open studios, etc. Without them, the scene wouldn't even be possible, let alone thriving.

MUSEUMS

Digging Veritas
Through June 2013
Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology
11 Divinity Ave., Cambridge
$7-$9, 617-496-1027
www.peabody.harvard.edu
This new exhibition showcases recent discoveries — including some dug up right in Harvard Yard — that shed light on life at colonial Harvard and its Indian College. From mere fragments, students were able to extrapolate fascinating insights into the social tensions connected to religion, class and literacy in an era that can often seem much more ancient than four centuries ago.

Mars and Beyond
Saturday and Sunday
Museum of Science
One Science Park, Boston
$22, 617-723-2500
www.mos.org
If all this excitement about the Mars rover has piqued your interest in space travel, this series of live presentations from honest-to-goodness rocket scientists and other specialists may be of interest. But we'll get the obvious question out of the way: What does a rocket scientist say when he wants to discount the difficulty of something? "It's not brain surgery." ● MATTHEW DINARO

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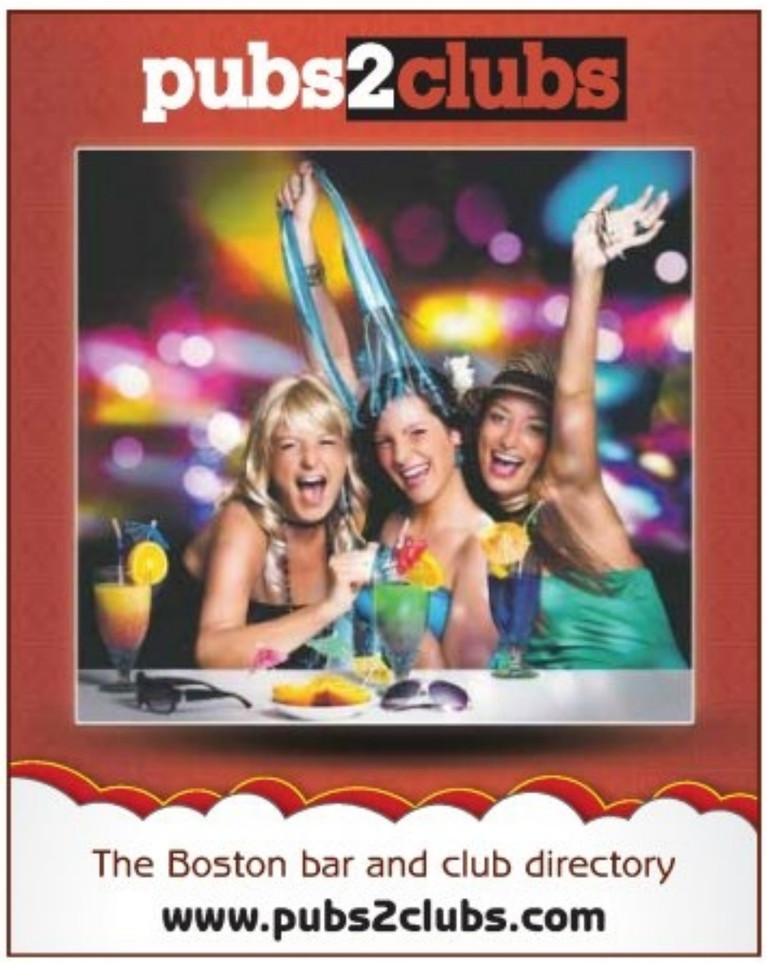

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Endless chaos, madness

It's become obvious that the players are running the show on Yawkey Way ◐ Valentine responds to story

Another day, and yet another off-the-field story coming out and taking over the airwaves and media attention surrounding the Red Sox.

According to a Yahoo! Sports report, Red Sox players had an intense meeting with ownership in New York late last month on their off day before a weekend series with the Yankees. In the report was Red Sox players sharing a picture message of Valentine apparently asleep in his office chair with Pedroia in front of him with his tongue out and thumbs up. The caption read, "Our manager contemplating his lineup at 3:30 p.m."

As these kinds of stories have come out, it becomes more and more apparent the players are the ones running the Red Sox organization, rather than the front office and the manager. Have you ever heard of a team where the players constantly go to management to complain about their manager or coach's decisions? Imagine Tom Brady complaining to Robert Kraft about the way Bill Belichick was coaching. Imagine Paul Pierce complaining to Danny Ainge about the way Doc Rivers was coaching. Unfathomable, right?

Quoted

"I think it really needs fine-tuning. They might have brought me in to adjust some of the culture that was existing."

BOBBY VALENTINE ON THE RED SOX ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ON WEEI RADIO

Making matters even worse is management siding with the players. How did Jon Lester's worst start as a major leaguer become about Valentine?

Once again, there was no player accountability, rather just the blaming of Valentine.

As for Pedroia mocking Valentine in the picture message, this is the so-called leader of the team, and the player some wanted to be named the next Red Sox captain? What he did, if the report is correct, was extremely unprofessional, something you would see with a Babe Ruth team, not a professional major league baseball team. Whether you like your manager or not, act professional. Give your manager a little respect and leave all the drama outside the ballpark.

The players control the organization. Because of this, they got their manager fired last year and are well on their way to getting another one fired this year. It should now become clear to ownership that the managers are not the issue with this team. It is the players.

If ownership really is committed to winning, there needs to be a drastic change in culture next season. That can only happen if ownership takes control of the team and eliminates the problem players and/or coaches.

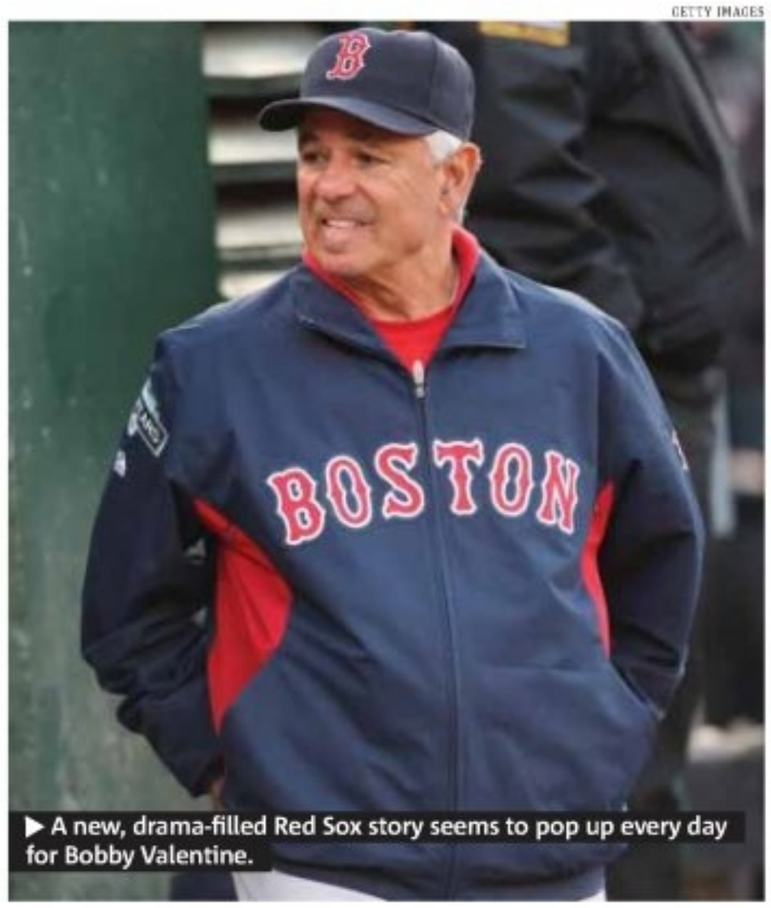
RYAN HANNABLE
sports@metro.us

The disconnect

Bobby Valentine responded yesterday to a scathing Yahoo! Sports report:

- **Bobby V** told WEEI that he had been "advised" about his managerial style.
- **Valentine** went on to talk about the distractions in Boston and said that "one of the reasons players don't like to sign (in Boston) is because they don't have to deal with (daily media drama) in other markets."

GETTY IMAGES



▶ A new, drama-filled Red Sox story seems to pop up every day for Bobby Valentine.

3

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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Aly Raisman

Raisman welcomed home

Aly Raisman got a hero's welcome yesterday when she arrived at Logan Airport following her phenomenal Olympics run in which she won two gold medals and a bronze.

With the three medals around her neck, she posed for pictures at the airport and admitted that they felt "really heavy."

A white stretch limousine, which was followed by TV helicopters, brought her home to Needham later in the afternoon.

She won't have too much time to rest, however, as a national gymnastics tour will take her and the rest of the "Fierce Five" across the country in 10 days. METRO

King Felix perfect

The Seattle Mariners' Felix Hernandez tossed the third perfect game of the 2012 MLB season yesterday as he shut down Tampa Bay. He struck out the side twice in the 1-0 win.
MATT BURKE

Better to make mistakes now

JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Tom Brady is afraid to make a miscue in the preseason.

It's no secret the quarterback position is the most important job in football, maybe even in sports.

Without a reliable quarterback who knows who he is, what he can do, and what his teammates can do (and where they are on the field), your team isn't going far. But if any QB is taking huge risks or trying new things in the second half of a tight game, then maybe he got knocked in the head a few times in the first half.

"As I tell our players, that's part of what practice is for, is to take risks, and to push it to see how far we can go, to see how much you can do," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "Sometimes it's going to come up a little bit short, but if it's done in the right context, then you learn from that and you realize, 'This is how far I can go. I can't gamble beyond this but I can push it to this point.'"

Over the last two practices, both Tom Brady and Ryan Mallett have thrown interceptions. But it's too easy to blame them or chalk it up to a bad play. Maybe they were testing the limits of everybody involved.

"You don't want to come out here and throw a bunch of interceptions, but at the same time, it's not a game, so you want to install things and see how they work and try to give guys an opportunity to go out and catch the ball and make plays on the ball," Brady said. "So you probably do some things this time of year that you wouldn't normally do, but at the same time, you're trying to make good decisions, read the coverage, and give the ball to the right guy."

The goal of camp is to prepare for the regular season. By tiptoeing around the practice field worrying about mistakes, a QB won't be ready for a situation that requires more than just a screen pass.

"You can always make the safe throw, make the easy throw. I mean that's OK, but at some point you're going to have to do more than that, and you better know what you can do and what you can't do," Belichick said. "Better to find out in practice than in the middle of the fourth quarter that, 'No, I can't. I don't want to be doing that.' That's not the time for it."

Quoted

"He seems the same as ever. You don't really put an age on him; he's got the Fountain of Youth or something."
PATRIOTS WR WES WELKER ON QB TOM BRADY

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

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